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News Release

Board of Education President Announced Treasurer's Resignation *Buccilla taking position in the private sector*

(November 22, 2004) Columbus Board of Education President Stephanie Hightower today announced that district Treasurer Jerry Buccilla has resigned his position effective December 19, 2004. Hightower said district staff will begin immediately the search for a replacement.

"The board received a resignation letter from the treasurer shortly after noon today, accepting a position in the private sector," said Hightower. "The board has already started to identify resources to assist us in the search process for a new treasurer and we are already seeking assistance to make decisions relative to an interim treasurer."

Since Buccilla was named treasurer, the district has made significant strides in terms of fiscal accountability including clean state financial audits, increased bond ratings and numerous awards for the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Buccilla was originally hired in January 1999 as Interim Treasurer before being promoted to Treasurer in September of that year. He said the decision to leave was difficult due to the rewarding nature of the work.

Hightower also noted the many accomplishments under the leadership of Treasurer Buccilla, including:

- Restructuring the staff assignments for more effective use of district employees,
- Bringing the work of the treasurer's office into compliance with state code,

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- Guiding the treasurer's office through implementation of accounting practices that led to increasingly more positive annual reports from Auditor of State of Ohio
- Upgrading bond rating from Moody's Fitch, and Standard and Poor's bonding rating services.

"I am extremely pleased with the significant strides the district has made in approving fiscal accountability during my tenure," said Buccilla. "It has truly been a team effort involving all district staff, the Superintendent and the board of Education."

"We will not be distracted in our focus on improving the academic progress of our students and upgrading our operational and fiscal accountability," said Hightower. "We will not loose our focus and will take the necessary and immediate steps to keep this district moving forward."

The Columbus City School District (Columbus Public Schools) began in 1845 when its first Board of Education was elected. Today, the district is the second largest in Ohio, with 145 schools and nearly 64,000 students. Led by Superintendent Gene T. Harris, Ph.D., the work of all staff is focused on increasing academic achievement, operating efficiently and effectively, and raising hope, trust and confidence in the district. Specific benchmarks include students reading at or above grade level by the third grade; being prepared for algebra by the ninth grade; having participated in a meaningful internship in high school; and, upon graduation, knowing how to use technology for lifelong learning. Learn more about the Columbus Public Schools today by visiting the district's website: www.columbus.k12.oh.us